Case 2:14-cv-04296-EVRI LD660M/E/R 15 HFN-E0107/16/14 Page 1 of 16

APPENDIX H

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provide by local rules of court, This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

		ADLEY GOOD and E themselves and all otl		DEFENDANT	NATIO	NWIDE CREDI	T, INC.			
(c) Attorney's (Andrew M. Milz,	(E. (Firm Name, A Esq., Flitter Le	First Listed Plaintiff <u>Delaw</u> XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA Address, and Telephone Number) Drenz, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave	SES) Cary L. Flitter, Esq. and		County of Residence NOTE: IN LAN LANI Attorneys (If Known)	OF THE				
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I. CAUSE OF A	ACTION	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute 15 U.S.C. § 1692 Brief description of cause			_	statutes ui	nless diversity):			
II. REQUESTE COMPLAIN		CHECK IF THIS IS A UNDER F,R,C.P. 23	CLASS ACTION	DE	MAND \$		YES only if demande DEMAND: X Yes	ed in complaint No.		
THE RELATED IF ANY	CASE(S)	(See instructions):	JUDGE SIGNATURE OF ATTO	ORNEY O		DOCKET	NUMBER			
OR OFFICE USE	1	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP	- R-2	JUDGE		MAG. JUDO	GE		

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

APPENDIX F

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 342 W. Second Street, Media, PA	19063-2302 & 729 Saginaw	Street, Scranton, PA 18505	
Address of Defendants: 2002 Summit Boulevard, Suite	600, Atlanta, GA 30319		
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Media, PA 19	063 & Scranton, PA 18505		
		(Use Reverse Side For Additiona	l Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in	e party with any parent corpora accordance with Fed.R.Civ.	ration and any publicly held corporati P. 7.1(a)	on owning 10% or more of its stock? Yes □ No ☑
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities	?		Yes No 🛛
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:			
Case Number: Judge		Date Terminated:	
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to	any of the following question		
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier			ed action in this court? Yes □ No ⊠
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow action in this court?	w out of the same transaction	n as a prior suit pending or within o	
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement o	f a patent already in suit or ar	ny earlier numbered case pending o	r within one year previously
terminated action in this court?			Yes ☐ No ⊠
CIVIL: (Place ☑ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)			=======================================
A. Federal Question Cases:	th C	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cas	
 Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All O 	tner Contracts	1. Insurance Contract and	
2. FELA		2. Airplane Personal Inju	ry
3. Jones Act-Personal Injury		3. Assault, Defamation	
4. Antitrust		4. Marine Personal Injury	
5. Patent		5. Motor Vehicle Persona	
6. Labor-Management Relations		6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. Civil Rights		7. Products Liability	
8. Habeas Corpus		8. Products Liability (Ast	pestos)
9. Securities Act(s) Cases		All other Diversity Cas	ses
10. Social Security Review Cases		(Please specify)	
11. 🛮 All other Federal Question Cases			
(Please specify) Fair Debt Collection Practices A	.ct, 15 U.S.C. § 1692		
	ARBITRATION C	ERTIFICATION	
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I,, counsel Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, S action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusion	of record do hereby certification 3(c)(2), that to the ive of interest and costs:	fy: best of my knowledge and bel	ief, the damages recoverable in this civil
Relief other than monetary damages		7-4	
DATE:	Vin L	full	35047
	Attorney-at-Law	Attorn	ey I.D.
NOTE: A trial de novo wil	ll be a trial by jury only	y if there has been complian	ce with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not	related to any case now pe	ending or within one year previou	isly terminated action in this court except
as noted above.	1 1	:#	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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	Attorney-at-Law		ey I.D.

APPENDIX I

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

BRADLEY GOOD and EDWARD SOUCEK, on behalf of : CIVIL ACTION

NO.

themselves and all others similarly situated

NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC.

plainting the side of designation the planting the planting to the planting the pla	ordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court of shall complete a case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases as the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff reation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court wintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying that defendant believes the case should be assigned.	at thon the gare	e t ne i din	ime reve g s rve	of erse aid on					
SELEC	CT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:									
(a)	Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. §2241 through §2255.									
(b)	Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits									
(c)	Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.									
(d)	Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.									
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases)										
(f)	Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.		()					
7/14/ Date	14 Cary L. Flitter Attorney at Law Attorney for Plaint				<u>-</u>					
610-822 Teleph (Civ.660)	one Fax Number E-Mail Address	aw.c	on	<u>1</u>						

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

BRADLEY GOOD 342 W. Second Street Media, PA 19063-2302

and

EDWARD K. SOUCEK 729 Saginaw Street Scranton, PA 18505

on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated

Plaintiff,

VS.

NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC. 2002 Summit Boulevard, Suite 600 Atlanta, GA 30319,

Defendant

CLASS ACTION

NO.

COMPLAINT

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is a consumer class action for damages brought pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 ("FDCPA"). The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from engaging in deceptive and unfair practices in the collection of consumer debt.
- 2. Defendant debt collector has sent out collection notices to Plaintiffs and the putative class that state that the lender "is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more." Under prevailing IRS regulation, sending a 1099C is frequently not required. The statement is both false and misleading, in violation of the Act.

II. <u>JURISDICTION</u>

3. Jurisdiction arises under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692k, and 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and

1337.

4. *In personam* jurisdiction exists and venue is proper as Defendant does business in this district and has caused harm in this district.

III. PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff Bradley Good is a consumer who resides in Media, Pennsylvania at the address captioned above.
- 6. Plaintiff, Edward K. Soucek is a consumer who resides in Scranton, Pennsylvania at the address captioned above.
- 7. Defendant Nationwide Credit, Inc. ("Nationwide") is a Georgia corporation with an office for the regular transaction of business as captioned.
- 8. Nationwide regularly uses the mail and telephone to attempt to collect consumer debts alleged to be due another.
- 9. Nationwide regularly engages in business and collect debts in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Middle District of Pennsylvania.
- 10. Nationwide is a "debt collector" as that term is contemplated in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM

- 11. On September 9, 2013, Defendant Nationwide sent Plaintiff Soucek a communication in connection with a consumer debt allegedly due GE Capital Retail Bank. (*See* correspondence from Nationwide attached hereto as Exhibit "A", redacted per Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 5.2).
 - 12. In the September 9, 2013 letter, Defendant states:

"GE CAPTIAL RETAIL BANK is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more. Please consult your tax advisor concerning any tax questions."

(See Exhibit "A").

- 13. On December 10, 2013, Defendant Nationwide sent Plaintiff Good a communication in connection with a consumer debt allegedly due American Express. (*See* correspondence from Nationwide attached hereto as Exhibit "B", redacted per Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 5.2).
 - 14. In the December 10, 2013 letter, Defendant states:

"American Express is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more. Please consult your tax advisor concerning any tax questions."

(See Exhibit "B").

- 15. The statement in the collection letters that Nationwide's client "is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more" is false and is misleading.
- 16. IRS Regulation 1.6050P requires that an "applicable entity" report a cancellation or discharge of indebtedness in excess of \$600.00 if, and only if, there has occurred an "identifiable event" described in paragraph (b)(2) of that section.
- 17. There are also seven exceptions to the reporting requirement. 26 CFR § 1.6050P-1(d).
- 18. One of the exceptions to the reporting requirement is for the case of a consumer bankruptcy. § 1.6050P-1(d)(1).
- 19. Mr. Soucek, for example, was contemplating filing for bankruptcy protection when he received the September 2013 dunning letter.

- 20. Mr. Soucek filed for bankruptcy protection on September 24, 2013 (M.D. Pa. Bky. Docket No. 13-4904). The (alleged) debt to GE Capital Retail Bank was subsequently discharged. No. 1099C form was "required to" be filed "with the Internal Revenue Service" under the tax regulation and to the best of Soucek's knowledge, none was filed.
- 21. Another exception to the reporting requirement is the portion of a debt attributable to interest and other non-principal sums.
- 22. For purposes of information reporting for discharge(s) of indebtedness (*i.e.*, issuance of IRS 1099C form) "the discharge of an amount of indebtedness that is interest is not required to be reported ..." In the case of a lending transaction, "the discharge of an amount other than stated principal is not required to be reported ..." 26 CFR § 1.6050P-1(d)(2), (3).
- 23. In the case of Mr. Good and Mr. Soucek, (and the putative class) a portion of the debt claimed due was interest or other non-principal amounts.
- 24. As such, the declarative, unqualified statement in Defendant's collection letter that AMEX or GE Capital Retail Bank "is required to file a form 1099C with the IRS for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more" is both literally false, and misleading to the consumer.
- 25. There are also other exceptions to the requirement to report discharges of indebtedness. See 26 CFR § 1.6050P-1(d).
- 26. Moreover, gratuitous reference in a collection letter that a creditor "is required" to provide information on the consumer to the Internal Revenue Service especially where that may not be the case is a collection ploy, a deception which suggests to the least sophisticated consumer that he or she could get in trouble with the IRS for refusal to pay the debt, or for obtaining any debt forgiveness of \$600 or more.

V. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 27. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and on behalf of a class designated pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - 28. Plaintiffs propose to define the class (the "Class") as follows:
 - a. All persons with addresses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
 - b. who were sent one or more collection letter(s) from Defendant Nationwide;
 - c. that stated GE Capital Retail Bank or American Express "is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more", or substantially identical statement;
 - d. where the underlying debt being collected was incurred primarily for personal, family or household use;
 - e. where the letter(s) bears a send date from July 11, 2013 through the date of filing of this Complaint.
- 29. The Class is believed to be so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical.

 This Complaint concerns mass-produced form collection letters.
 - 30. There are questions of law or fact common to the Class. These include:
 - a. Whether Defendant made false, deceptive or misleading representations in connection with the collection of a debt in violation of §1692e;
 - b. Whether Defendant engaged in false representations and deceptive means to collect a consumer debt alleged due, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692e(10);
 - c. Whether the form collection notice misstates the requirements of the IRS regulations.

- d. Whether Defendant's reference to the "Internal Revenue Service" in its collection dun constitutes a deceptive collection practice.
- 31. The claims of the named Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the Class. All are based on the same factual and legal theories.
- 32. Good and Soucek will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs have no interests antagonistic to those of the class, Plaintiffs' counsel are competent and experienced in consumer credit cases and class actions.
- 33. The questions of law or fact common to the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The Class members are consumer debtors, who may be unable to locate or afford to hire lawyers.
- 34. The Class may be certified under Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(b)(3), as such represents a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy in that:
 - a. Congress specifically contemplated FDCPA class actions as a principal means of enforcing the statute by private attorneys general. 15 U.S.C. §1692k.
 - b. The essence of Defendant's collection efforts is the deception of consumers.
 - c. The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against debt collectors is small because the maximum statutory damages available in an individual action under the Act is \$1,000.00.
 - d. This Pennsylvania only, statutory damages class is likely to be easily manageable.

COUNT I – FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

35. Plaintiffs repeat the allegations set forth above as if the same were set forth at length

herein.

36. Defendant violated the FDCPA by sending collection notices to Plaintiffs and the

members of the class which:

a. Make false, deceptive, or misleading representations or statements in

connection with the collection of consumer debt, 15 U.S.C. § 1692e; and

b. Engage in false representation and deceptive means to collect a consumer

debt, 15 U.S.C. §1692e(10).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Bradley Good and Edward K. Soucek pray that this Court

certify this matter as a class action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and enter judgment for Plaintiffs and

the Class members against the Defendant Nationwide Credit, Inc.;

a. Awarding damages to Plaintiffs and to the Class as provided for in 15

U.S.C. §1692k(a);

b. Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class their costs and reasonable attorney's fees;

and

c. Granting such other relief as may be deemed just and proper.

VI. <u>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</u>

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

DATE: 7114114

CARY L. FLITTER

Respectfully submitted:

THEODORE E. LORENZ

ANDREW M. MILZ

7

FLITTER LORENZ, P.C. 450 N. Narberth Avenue, Suite 101 Narberth, PA 19072 (610) 822-0782

CARLO SABATINI BRETT FREEMAN SABATINI LAW FIRM, LLC 216 N. Blakely Street Dunmore, PA 18512 (570) 341-9000

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

EXHIBIT "A"



Nationwide Credit, Inc.

2002 SUMMIT BOULEVARD SUITE 600 ATLANTA GA 30319 MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8AM TO 5PM 1-866-659-0711 RE: GE CAPITAL RETAIL BANK-AMAZON Account Number: XXXXXXXXXXXXX2127

W. W.

Account Balance: \$613.03 Savel: \$429.13 Settlement Amount: \$183.90

Date: 09/09/2013

Let Us Help You!



Nationwide Credit, Inc. previously sent you a letter, more than thirty (30) days ago, advising you that your past due account was placed with us for collection. The account balance as of the date of this letter is shown above.

We are offering you an opportunity to settle this account in full for only \$183.90, saving you \$429.13 on the balance owed!

For your convenience, you can make a payment using any one of the options below:

Go to: paynow.solvemydebt.com

2. Enter your Account #: 7749 and User ID: 7457

Send a check or money order payable to Nationwide Credit, Inc. to the following address:

PO BOX 26314

LEHIGH VALLEY PA18002-6314

Reference your Account # on your check or money order



Call us at 1-866-659-0711.

If you are unable to pay according to the instructions above we can discuss other options.

GE CAPITAL RETAIL BANK is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more. Please consult your tax advisor concerning any tax questions.

We look forward to assisting you in resolving this account.

Nationwide Credit, Inc.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector or a consumer collection agency and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

C12

052012

*** Please See Reverse Side of This Letter for Important Consumer Information ***

Please Detach and Return this Stub in the Enclosed Envelope with your Check or Money Order - Make Sure the "Remit to" Address appears in the Window

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL PO BOX 26314 LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-6314

13490



040/C12/901/09/09/2013

ACCOUNT NO: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX2127 ID NUMBER: 7749 BALANCE DUE: \$613.03 AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

o Change of address: Print New Address on Back

REMIT TO:

Ռուլը:Ուվուինի գինքին ընդերի իրկին Որինդեւ NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC. PO BOX 26314 LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-6314

ֈովլDMI_[[գոգ][ոգոո]||ելMենգո||MI]_[գ]|Ալ|Mեն(լ]գնախորհիս 44885-10A65***AUTO**MIXED AADC 350

Edward Soucek 729 Saginaw St Scranton PA 18505-3628

THIS COMMUNICATION IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT BY A DEBT COLLECTOR OR A CONSUMER COLLECTION AGENCY AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day to day, according to any agreement you have with your creditor, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Therefore, if you pay the entire balance of the amount shown above, an adjustment to the balance due may be necessary after we receive your payment. If your creditor requires an additional amount to consider your entire balance paid, we will inform you.

NOTE CHANGES ONLY

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LAST NAME						Ι						L	Ι	I	I	L																						
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EXHIBIT "B"



Nationwide Credit, Inc.

PO BOX 26314 LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-6314 1-877-779-3472

RE: AMERICAN EXPRESS

Account Number: XXXXXXXXXXX41001

Account Balance: \$10,094.47

Date: 12/10/2013



Let Us Help You!

Your outstanding balance with the above-referenced creditor is past due and has been referred to Nationwide Credit, Inc. for collection. The account carance as of the date of this letter is shown above.

We understand that the economic difficulties faced today are extremely stressful and we want to help lessen the stress of your debt obligation by offering you the opportunity to resolve this account now.

For your convenience, you can make a payment using any one of the options below:

Pay Online: PayNow.SolveMyDebt.Com NCI ID #. 26 and User ID: 45

=

Pay by Mail: PO BOX 26314 LEHIGH VALLEY PA18002

Pay by Phone: Toll free at 1-877-779-3472.

Unless you notify this office within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office in writing within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment against you and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. Upon your written request within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector or a consumer collection agency and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. American Express is required to file a form 1099C with the Internal Revenue Service for any cancelled debt of \$600 or more. Please consult your tax advisor concerning any tax questions. This demand for payment does not eliminate your right to dispute this debt or inquire for more information about this debt, as described in the previous paragraphs.

Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day to day, according to any agreement you have with your creditor, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Therefore, if you pay the entire balance of the amount shown above, an adjustment to the balance due may be necessary after we receive your payment. If your creditor requires an additional amount to consider your entire balance paid, we will inform you.

Nationwide Credit, Inc.

A01 05201

*** Please See Reverse Side of This Letter for Important Consumer Information ***

Please Detach and Return this Stub in the Enclosed Envelope with your Check or Money Order - Make Sure the "Remit to "Address appears in the Window

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL PO BOX 26315 LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002-6315

00787



023/A01A/A01/12/10/2013

ACCOUNT NO: XXXXXXXXXXX41001 ID NUMBER: 00626 BALANCE DUE: \$10,094,47 AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

o Change of address: Print New Address on Back

REMIT TO:

մինիվիկիկիկիկիկիկիկիկիկինությերինիիիկիկ NATIONWIDE CREDIT, INC. PO BOX 26314 LEHIGH VALLEY PA 18002

գելիլուների ՈՈՈւմի Այնվել իրովիգիոնիոլ և դեռի

46431-11A15*AUTO**ALL FOR AADC 190 Bradley Good 342 W Second St Media PA 19063-2302